

Saskatchewan

Rural

Telephone

Companies

Association



MINUTES OF THE
1957 CONVENTION

M. Fritshaw—President
Tisdale, Sask.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones. Minutes of the 1957 Convention.

The convention was held in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Sask.

At 10.40 a. m. the president, Mr. Moot Fritshaw, of Tisdale, Sask., called the meeting to order. The chairman said previously we held our conventions in Prince Albert and Saskatoon. In 1956 the delegates felt we should hold the 1957 convention here in Regina. We assemble yearly to discuss problems and conditions common to all rurals. He then read the agenda as drawn up by the executive. He asked whether it was acceptable to the convention. Moved and seconded that the agenda be accepted as read. Carried.

The lengthy printed minutes of 1956 had been distributed to the delegates at the registration desk. He asked if the delegates were prepared to accept them as having been read. Moved by Briarlea R. Tel. Co., seconded by Nipawin R. Tel. Co., that same be accepted as printed and distributed. Carried.

Press Committee 3 members: Moved and seconded that the chairman appoint the said members. Carried. Appointed were:— R. A. Clackson, Tisdale; F. S. Anderson, Briarlea; and George H. Furneaux, Nipawin. Resolutions Committee— 3 members: Moved and seconded that the president appoint two members; and one by the delegates. Carried. Appointed were Mrs. J. Metcalfe - Regina Beach; Mr. F. E. Jones - Assiniboia; and Mr. R. J. Moore - Lashburn.

The mayor of Regina had arrived and was introduced and presented to the delegates. His Worship welcomed the delegates and also expressed appreciation that the Association came to Regina. Communications concern us all. As representatives of rural telephones you endeavor to improve your systems and methods. Today much progress and improvement is evident. We hope you will have success in your deliberations. We hope you will enjoy your stay in the city. Convention parking tickets good for 24 hours at 25 cents. These can be obtained at the police station. He was applauded as the mayor left the convention hall.

A number of questions were asked to which the Supt. of Rurals, Mr. T. E. Cavanagh, replied

and suggested possible solutions to a number of problems.

Moved and seconded that we recess for lunch and reconvene at 1:30 p. m. Carried.

At 1:35 p. m. the representative of the Workmen's Compensation Board, Mr. E. W. Stevenson, showed a safety film—how to prevent accidents—what to do and what not to do; and urged all to prevent accidents and practice safety features.

The Deputy Minister, Mr. Muirhead, said "I do not wish to make a speech. Rather to listen to the discussions, questions and problems and so to acquaint myself with rural telephone matters and conditions. Perhaps I can be helpful with questions later on."

The chairman informed the delegates that a letter dated July 4th from Mrs. Lilly Lindquist stated that Mr. A. R. Lindquist, our director from Assiniboia, unexpectedly passed away after an operation on March 24th last. All stood for one minute of silence. Moved and seconded that the association write a letter of condolence and sympathy to Mrs. Lindquist. Cd.

At the Convention of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones Mr. R. A. MacLean, Administrative Officer of the Municipal Employees' Superannuation Fund, Department of Municipal Affairs, speaking on the superannuation scheme stated that it became effective on July 1st, 1957 under the Municipal Employees' Superannuation Act. From July 1st, 1957 until February 28th, 1958 it is on a voluntary basis. After February 28th next it becomes compulsory for all rural linemen and secretary treasurers. Not covered are those earning less than \$750.00 per annum or those who had reached 55 years of age at the time they commenced service with their employer unless they wished to be covered.

Question: Can operators come under this scheme?

Reply: Yes - Operators can participate subject to designation by the employer. Operators belong to the voluntary provisions of the Act, if any particular individual employer does not consent to the participation of an operator then he does not participate.

It is important to add that the completion of the return of employees' form which has

been forwarded to all Rural Telephone Companies be completed now where voluntary participation is requested and at least in the month of February for linemen and secretary treasurers who belong to the permanent features of the Act in order that the preparation of their personal cards can take place. This board at all times is pleased to receive questions from any Company or employee with reference to the workings of the fund and Act.

Those Companies who have applied to participate voluntarily from July 1st, 1957 will deduct 5% from the salary or wages of the employee commencing with the pay period of July and for each month or pay period thereafter. On October 1st the total deductions made from July, August and September earnings will be matched by a similar contribution of 5% by the employer and the one cheque is to be made payable to The Municipal Employees' Superannuation Board and forwarded to this Board, Government Administration Building, Regina, Sask. Payroll deduction forms will be mailed in the middle of September to those who have voluntarily entered this Act.

For those who will commence participation on March 1st, 1958, deductions for the month of March will be forwarded to this Board on April 1st, 1958 and on each quarterly due date thereafter.

Mr. G. W. R. Clarke, General Commercial Superintendent, Dept. of Telephones, spoke briefly. Mr. R. D. McLeod, Division Commercial Superintendent, said he was pleased to be able to sit in on the convention to listen to rural telephone problems and conditions in the other parts of the province.

Mr. S. H. Frandsen of the Saskatchewan Timber Board, Prince Albert said that they have discontinued the No. 2 class pole as well as the pentachlorophenol pole treatment, because poles are more wet than with creosote. "We now use the steam treatment which is also creosote. We fill orders as received. Companies should put the delivery date on their orders and place their orders as early as possible. Sometimes we find it difficult to fill all orders on short notice. We try to accommodate companies as much as possible. If any delegate or company wishes more information

I will be available until the adjournment of the meeting."

The Hon. L. F. MacIntosh, minister of Municipal Affairs was next called upon by the president. The Minister said he was glad and pleased to be at our convention. The rural companies are rendering important communications services. Today demands modern time services. Also the general trend is towards the main community center of the area. Thus boundaries, authorities, reallocation of financed and local governmental services, roads, rural telephone lines, and community efforts enter into this larger picture. Consequently also it affects rural companies, wider road allowances, telephone lines must be moved from their former locations further back from the center of the road. Thus telephone services are keenly interested in providing better and faster service to their patrons and customers. Where should poles, on the wider road allowances and the grid road system, be placed? They should be not less than 100 feet for good standard all-weather roads. If more than 100 feet road allowance is desired then the municipalities should make arrangements for the additional land required so that telephone poles can be placed outside of the road allowances. Therefore, an easement should be obtained. Maybe a map of the grid system would be helpful and useful to rural companies. The R. M's. have not yet finalized their grid road locations. Rural telephone companies should write to the Department of Highways, Regina, re grid road location in which they are interested.

Resolutions: All moved by Mrs. J. Metcalfe, the committee chairman.

1. By Viscount: Whereas Telephone companies usually set their rentals during the early part of the year to cover salaries and operating costs; therefore, any change that might be made by the Government Labour Relations Board be not effective until such time as the new rental is set to cover any increase in salaries and operating costs. Carried.

2. By South Melfort: That the new directories contain, in the rural section, the land location of the subscriber. Lost.

3. By Nipawin: That some clarification is necessary to define who is a "resident" where

new construction is to be done, we suggest that a time be specified for residence on said land before he has the right to object to such construction and would ask this convention to support the following: Resolved, that the wording of the Act be changed to read: "a resident" must reside on his farm for not less than nine months in "each year". Carried.

4. Be it resolved, that the Labour Board be again asked to allow an apprentice period for training telephone operators who are hired by rural telephone companies. In most other vocations such as teaching, nursing, stenography and secretarial positions, the employee has to pay for learning their trade. The minimum wage for operators is now over \$125.00 per month. Carried.

5. This resolution dealt with apprentices. After some discussion all agreed it was more as a directive to the directors of this association, who are to consider and assess the whole question—to draw up a schedule of wages and terms of apprenticeship and to report at the next convention.

6. By Briarlea: "The directors shall be paid out of pocket expenses for any special meeting or the members of any committee appointed to attend to any special business; but no payment will be made for any meeting of directors or committee held either immediately before or after the annual convention". Lost.

7. Resolution dealt with membership in the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones and with membership fees. It was agreed that it be left with the directors for their attention and consideration and to report at the next convention.

8. By South Prince Albert: Whereas, the cost of materials and labor have more than doubled since the Special Levy rates, as outlined in section 44, sub-section (5) of the Rural Telephone Act, were established; and whereas, the number of subscribers is continually increasing necessitating additional circuits to carry the addition load; and whereas, some telephone companies find it impossible to do the necessary reconstruction and maintenance work with the funds available from the rate of levy; Therefore, be it resolved the sub section (5) of section (44) of the Rural Telephone Act be amended to the effect that the Minister

of Telephones could, at his discretion, and where necessary, grant permission to rural telephone companies to increase the Special Levy above the present maximum of 8%. That any company can levy 8% without permission of the Minister. Over 8% permission required. Carried.

Re Memberships: Moved by McLaren and Manitou Lake that the secretary be instructed to send a statement of account to each rural telephone company. Carried.

Moved by Manitou Lake, seconded by Viscount that the amendment of our bylaws in 1956—page 5 of the minutes be reaffirmed and approved L.E. 50 cents per rural circuit. Minimum \$5.00. No Maximum. Carried.

Moved by Nipawin, seconded by Manitou Lake that notice of motion is hereby given that at our next convention (1958) that "the \$5.00 Minimum" be deleted. Carried.

Printing of bylaws: Moved and seconded that this be deferred for another year. Cd.

Convention place for 1958: The cities of Prince Albert and Saskatoon were proposed. The result of the vote: Prince Albert.

Elections: Mr. T. E. Cavanagh, Supt. of Rurals, acted as chairman during the election for president.

Nominated were M. Fritshaw, Tisdale, Sask., Box 119 and F. E. Jones, Assiniboia, Sask. Moved and seconded that nominations cease. Carried.

When Mr. Jones declined, the acting chairman declared Mr. Fritshaw reelected president. Vice-President: Only Mr. R. J. Greaves, of Star City, Sask., was nominated. Therefore declared re-elected by the president. Directors (10) nominated were: R. A. Clackson, Tisdale, Sask., Box 544; W. G. Streeton, Sr., Plunkett; C. B. Sutton, Marshall; H. B. Polkinghorne, Marsden; M. Scramstad, Hendon; F. E. Jones, Assiniboia; F. S. Anderson, Briarlea; Allan Nesbitt, Lashburn; George W. Furneaux, Nipawin; Carl Runyan, Punnichy. Since no other nominations were made it was moved and seconded that the poll be closed. Cd.

Moved and seconded that a hearty vote of thanks be given to the Government of Saskatchewan for the free use of this meeting place. Carried.

Notice of motion by South Prince Albert

that at our next convention we will present a motion to reduce the number of directors from 10 to 5.

Adjournment followed.

M. Fritshaw-Pres. J.M. Stroeder-sec.-treas.
Tisdale, Sask., Box 119 Pilger, Sask.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statements of Receipts and Expenditures

For the period July 1, 1956 to July 2, 1957

RECEIPTS

Membership Fees	\$300.00
Sask. Gov't 'Phones	150.00
Sask. Timber Board	
Honorarium	50.00
Deposit of Cheque	
H. B. Palkinghorne	31.05
Over Deposited, July 9, 1956	8.60
Deposit By J. M. Stroeder	
December 24, 1956 Loan	40.00
Exchange added to cheques received on account of Membership	.90
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	\$580.55
Bank Bal., June 30, 1956	242.47
Dom. of Can. - Bond	50.00
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\$873.02

EXPENDITURES

Directors Travel Exp.	\$220.15
Printing, Postage and Stationery	99.22
Secretary's Salary	100.00
Stenographic Services	10.00
Hall - Rent	40.00
Audit Fees	7.50
Paid to J. M. Stroeder	
For Over Deposit 1954	4.25
Paid to J. M. Stroeder	
For Deposit Jan. 18, 1956	22.67
Bank Service Charges	2.60
Exchange on Cheq. Deposited	4.00
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	\$510.39
Bank Balance, July 2, 1957	\$312.63
Dominion of Canada - Bond	50.00
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\$873.02